

5 AUG 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT : Proposal for a Limited Community Code-Word Mechanism

Reference : Confidential Memorandum of Executive Secretary, United States Intelligence Board, to Deputy Director, Plans, undated, subject as above.

1. The proposal to establish a central USIB mechanism for clearing and controlling a limited number of selected code words has been reviewed within the DD/P and the following conclusions arrived at:

a. There are no apparent security problems involved in the proposal from the point of view of the Clandestine Services; and

b. Although we have no way of estimating the level of usage of such a code-word denial list, the proposal would furnish a means for preventing confusion from arising among and within member agencies.

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2. Since the [redacted] of the Records Integration Division, the most knowledgeable component of the DD/P on matters of this nature, handles the assignment and control of code words used in CIA, it is the repository for some of the most sensitive information within the Agency. We, therefore, deem it inadvisable for that office and its personnel to be formally associated with the USIB code-word mechanism. Accordingly, we suggest that the Agency might find it more desirable to nominate a member of the USIB Secretariat as USIB Code-Word Control Officer. Under such an arrangement, the [redacted] of the DD/P would stand ready to assist the USIB Code-word Control Officer by developing for him the unexpurgated denial lists for circulation to the community, consolidating the excise lists as they are returned, and furnishing him guidance and advice in the future should the need arise.

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RICHARD HELMS

Attachment: (1) Ref. Memo w/att.

Chief of Operations, DD/P

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(3 August 1959)

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